

Message Text

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SUBJ: LAWS GOVERNING IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS INTO BANGLADESH

REF: STATE 177789

1. THE IMPORTATION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION INTO BANGLADESH IS STRICTLY REGULATED BY LAWS DATING FROM THE BRITISH PERIOD. UNDER THESE LAWS, THE PRIVATE OR COMMERCIAL IMPORTATION OF HANDGUNS OF .38 CALIBER AND ABOVE, AND RIFLES OF 7.0 MM AND .303 CALIBER AND ABOVE IS FORBIDDEN. SINCE SUCH ARMS CAN BE USED LEGALLY ONLY BY THE POLICE AND THE ARMED FORCES, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE HOME MINISTRY ARE THE ONLY AUTHORIZED AGENCIES FOR IMPORTING AND DISTRIBUTING THEM. NONPROHIBITED WEAPONS OF SMALLER BORE MAY BE IMPORTED COMMERCIALY AND PRIVATELY.

2. COMMERCIAL DEALERS: ACCORDING TO THE LAWS, IN ORDER TO IMPORT AND SELL ARMS AND AMMUNITION COMMERICALY, A PROSPECTIVE DEALER MUST OBTAIN A DEALERSHIP LICENSE FROM THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SECURITY BRANCH) UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE OF THE AREA WHERE THE BUSINESS WILL BE LOCATED. THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE MAKES HIS RECOMMENDATION IF HE IS

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SATISFIED THAT A NEED FOR SUCH A DEALERSHIP EXISTS IN THE AREA AND THE LOCAL POLICE HAVE REPORTED FAVORABLY ON THE CHARACTER, REPUTATION, ANTECEDENTS, AND BONA FIDES OF THE APPLICANT. THE COMMERCIAL DEALER THEN APPLIES TO THE CHIEF CONTROLLER, IMPORTS AND EXPORT (CCIE) FOR AN IMPORT PERMIT. THE DEALER MUST LIST THE TYPE AND QUANTITY OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION HE WISHES TO IMPORT. THE CCIE THEN ISSUES THE IMPORT

PERMIT AGAINST ANY ALLOCATION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE SET ASIDE FOR ARMS IMPORTS. WITH THE PERMIT, THE DEALER CAN OBTAIN A LETTER OF CREDIT FROM THE BANK OF BANGLADESH TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE. THE FACT THAT A LETTER OF CREDIT IS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT IS PROOF THAT THE TRANSACTION HAS THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT.

(FYI: THE

QUESTION OF COMMERCIAL ARMS IMPORTS IS ACADEMIC AT PRESENT. THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH HAS ALLOCATED ALMOST NONE OF ITS SCARCE FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR THE PRIVATE OR COMMERCIAL IMPORTATION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION. MOREOVER, PRESENT IMPORT POLICY PERMITS ONLY THE STATE TRADING CORPORATION TO IMPORT LIGHT ARMS. END FYI).

3. PRIVATE IMPORTER: FOR A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL TO IMPORT NONPROHIBITED FIRE ARMS AND AMMUNITION, HE HAS TO FIRST OBTAIN A LICENSE TO POSSESS FIREARMS FROM THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE OF THE AREA WHERE HE NORMALLY RESIDES AND THEN AN IMPORT PERMIT FROM THE CHIEF CONTROLLER, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

4. NORMALLY, WHEN A SHIPMENT OF ARMS AND/OR AMMUNITION ARRIVES AT CUSTOMS, THE CONSIGNEE MUST SHOW THAT HE HAS ALL THE REQUIRED PERMITS AND LICENSES BEFORE THE SHIPMENT IS RELEASED TO HIM.

5. REGULATIONS ON DISPOSITION AND POSSESSION OF FIREARMS: WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN FIREARMS ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT EVERY TRANSACTION TO THE ARMS SECTION OF THE APPLICABLE DISTRICT COMMISSION'S OFFICE AND TO SUBMIT A COPY OF THE REPORT TO THE SPECIAL BRANCH OF THE POLICE. ACCORDING TO LAW NO ONE CAN POSSESS, PROCURE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CARRY OR USE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION WITHOUT A VALID LICENSE ISSUED BY A DISTRICT MAGISTRATE. SUCH LICENSES, WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS, MUST BE RENEWED IN DECEMBER OF EACH YEAR, AS MUST THE LICENSES OF COMMERCIAL DEALERS. BOSTER

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